After this battle Col. Pender was promoted and Capt. I. E. Avery was made Lieut-Colonel of the 6th Regiment.

About the 12th to 13th of June our division was placed aboard the cars at Richmond and carried by way of Lynchburg and Charlottsville to Staunton, and disembarking there started down the valley. But we made only one march in that direction when we met Gen. Jackson's men coming up the Valley Pike towards Staunton. We were turned about and marched by way of Waynesboro and across the Blue Ridge at Rockfish Gap towards Charlottsville. Our road was nearly along the rail road, and we could see train-load after train-load of troops moving east.

Finally our turn came, and we were taken up and hauled to Trevillians depot, and thence were marched, bearing at first towards Fredericksburg, but at last turned to Ashland. Here we were told that Lee was going to capture McClellan's army or drive him away from Richmond. We were on his right flank and were to move early in the morning of the 26th. We did so, but before we had gotten in rear of McClellan's right or had time to attack him the Confederates in front of his lines at and near Mechanicsville charged him in front. They carried the works but at fearful loss. Our Brigade, Whiting's, had had only a slight skirmish in crossing Totapotomoi creek, and if Jackson had been allowed a little longer time the enemy could not have awaited the attack in front, for Jackson was about to strike him in the rear.

Whose fault or by whose mistake was the great loss of Confederates at Mechanicsville?

On the 27th we took part in the battle of Gaines Mill or Cold Harbor, one of the most noted and hotly-contested battles of the war.

The enemy, under Gen. Fitz John Porter, were strongly posted on the east bank of Powhite creek. Their artillery was on the top of the ridge, in front of which were two lines of infantry, so placed on the hill-side that the artillery and the two lines of infantry could all fire over each other on the advancing Confederates; and to reach their line we had

to cross the creek in a deep ravine. They had felled the timber so as to hinder an attacking force.

Our brigade, Whiting's, was formed in line, with Hood's Texas Brigade, as I recollect, on our left, and had moved forward until we were about within range of the enemy's musketry.

A short halt was made. The field of battle was before us: Cannons belching forth fire and smoke; bursting shells; riderless horses rushing wildly about; smoking lines of infantry; charging columns gallantly led by mounted officers; wounded men being borne to the rear, whilst the dead lay motionless and still! It was the reality of the pictures given us by artists.

There had been an unsuccessful attempt to drive the enemy from his strong position. Our line was in readiness. The gallant Whiting, riding along in front of the line, was cheered by our men, and, turning to the line, raised his hat in acknowledgement of the salute and called out, saying: "Boys, you can take it!" and motioned towards the enemy's position. "Forward!" was the command all along the line.

The advance across the open field on the west side of the creek; crossing the creek and working our way up the hill through the fallen timber; driving the two lines of infantry from behind their breastworks and capturing the artillery posted on the ridge behind them, was a severe test of those qualities which have made the Confederate soldier famous.

It was a military feat which the historians of the war do not seem to have appreciated.

The 6th Regiment did its part in driving the enemy from a position which, after we had taken it and had time to view the situation, looked as if it should have been impregnable to troops attacking it in front. It has been said that President Davis watched this attack from where he was on the south side of the Chickahominy; saw its success, and, not knowing the troops or their commander, eulogized them and said: "That charge has saved Richmond." When the battle ended it was getting dark.

The loss of this position compelled the Federals to with-